

**House File 399 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 399

BY GOBBLE

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for a statewide course numbering system for  
2 postsecondary and concurrent enrollment courses and for a  
3 statewide course numbering system fund.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261I.1 Statewide course numbering  
2 system.

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "Accredited private institution" means the same as  
5 defined in section 261.9.

6 b. "Community college" means the same as defined in section  
7 260C.2.

8 c. "Department" means the department of education.

9 d. "Public postsecondary educational institution" means  
10 a community college established under chapter 260C or an  
11 institution of higher learning governed by the state board of  
12 regents.

13 2. Subject to an appropriation of funds by the general  
14 assembly for this purpose, the state board of regents and  
15 the department, in cooperation with the Iowa association  
16 of independent colleges and universities and the boards  
17 of directors of the community colleges, shall develop,  
18 coordinate, and maintain a statewide course numbering system  
19 for postsecondary and concurrent enrollment education in school  
20 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, public postsecondary  
21 educational institutions, and accredited private institutions,  
22 that will improve program planning, increase communication  
23 among all delivery systems, and facilitate student acceleration  
24 and the transfer of students and credits between school  
25 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, public postsecondary  
26 educational institutions, and accredited private institutions.  
27 The continuing maintenance of the system shall be accomplished  
28 with the assistance of appropriate faculty committees  
29 representing the participating postsecondary institutions.  
30 However, the state board of regents shall be principally  
31 responsibility for maintaining the system.

32 3. The state board of regents, the director of the  
33 department in collaboration with the community colleges, and  
34 the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities  
35 shall appoint faculty committees representing faculties of

1 public postsecondary educational institutions and accredited  
2 private institutions to an ongoing statewide course numbering  
3 system faculty task force that shall recommend a single level  
4 for each course, including postsecondary career education  
5 courses, included in the statewide course numbering system, and  
6 shall meet at least annually to review the statewide course  
7 numbering system.

8     *a.* Any course designated as an upper-division-level  
9 course must be characterized by a need for advanced academic  
10 preparation and skills that a student would be unlikely to  
11 achieve without significant prior coursework.

12     *b.* A course that is offered as part of an associate in  
13 science degree program and as an upper-division course for a  
14 baccalaureate degree shall be designated for both the lower and  
15 upper division.

16     *c.* A course designated as a lower-division course may be  
17 offered by any public postsecondary educational institution and  
18 any accredited private institution.

19     4. The state board of regents, the department, the board of  
20 directors of the community colleges, and the accredited private  
21 institutions shall approve the levels for the courses.

22     5. The statewide course numbering system shall include the  
23 courses at the recommended levels.

24     6. The registration process at each public postsecondary  
25 educational institution and each accredited private institution  
26 shall include the courses at their designated levels and  
27 statewide course numbers.

28     7. All public postsecondary educational institutions  
29 and all accredited private institutions shall participate  
30 in the statewide course numbering system, shall bear the  
31 costs associated with inclusion in the system, and shall meet  
32 the terms and conditions for institutional participation  
33 in the system. The state board of regents and the state  
34 board of education, in cooperation with the Iowa association  
35 of independent colleges and universities and the board of

1 directors of the community colleges, shall adopt a fee schedule  
2 that includes the expenses incurred through data processing,  
3 faculty task force travel and per diem, and staff and clerical  
4 support time. Such fee schedule may differentiate between the  
5 costs associated with initial course inclusion in the system  
6 and costs associated with subsequent course maintenance in the  
7 system.

8 8. Decisions regarding initial course inclusion and  
9 subsequent course maintenance must be made within one year  
10 after submission of the required materials and fees by the  
11 institution. The state board of regents may select a date by  
12 which participating postsecondary institutions must submit  
13 requests for new courses to be included, and may delay review  
14 of courses submitted after that date until the next year's  
15 cycle.

16 9. Any student who transfers among postsecondary  
17 institutions participating in the statewide course numbering  
18 system shall be awarded credit by the receiving institution  
19 for courses satisfactorily completed by the student at the  
20 previous institutions. Credit shall be awarded if the courses  
21 are judged by the statewide course numbering system faculty  
22 task force to be academically equivalent to courses offered at  
23 the receiving institution, including equivalency of faculty  
24 credentials, regardless of the public or private control of  
25 the previous institution. The state board of regents and  
26 the department, and participating private institutions as  
27 appropriate, shall ensure that credits to be accepted by a  
28 receiving institution are generated in courses for which the  
29 faculty possess credentials that are comparable to those  
30 required by the accrediting association of the receiving  
31 institution. The award of credit may be limited to courses  
32 that are entered in the statewide course numbering system.  
33 Credits awarded pursuant to this subsection shall satisfy  
34 institutional requirements on the same basis as credits awarded  
35 under the participating postsecondary institution's current

1 course catalog.

2 10. The state board of regents and the state board of  
3 education shall each adopt rules under chapter 17A for purposes  
4 of administering this section. The rules adopted by the  
5 state board of regents shall, at a minimum, provide for the  
6 following:

7 a. Regularly scheduled purges of courses that are listed in  
8 the statewide course numbering system but have not been taught  
9 at a participating postsecondary institution for the preceding  
10 five years.

11 b. Waiver provisions that allow course continuation if  
12 an institution has reasonable cause for having not offered a  
13 course within the five-year limit and an expectation that the  
14 course will be offered again within the following five years.

15 11. A statewide course numbering system fund is created  
16 in the state treasury under the control of the state board of  
17 regents. The fund shall consist of any moneys appropriated by  
18 the general assembly for purposes of this section and all fees  
19 deposited into the fund pursuant to this section. Moneys in  
20 the fund are appropriated to the state board of regents for  
21 purposes of coordinating and maintaining the statewide course  
22 numbering system pursuant to this section. Notwithstanding  
23 section 8.33, moneys credited to the statewide course numbering  
24 system fund shall not revert at the close of a fiscal year but  
25 shall be available for expenditure for the following fiscal  
26 year for the purposes of this section. Notwithstanding section  
27 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys deposited  
28 in the statewide course numbering system fund shall be credited  
29 to the statewide course numbering system fund.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill, subject to an appropriation of funds by the  
34 general assembly for such purpose, requires the state board of  
35 regents and the department of education, in cooperation with

1 the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities  
2 and the boards of directors of the community colleges, to  
3 develop, coordinate, and maintain a statewide course numbering  
4 system for postsecondary and concurrent enrollment education  
5 in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, public  
6 postsecondary educational institutions, and accredited  
7 private institutions, to improve program planning, increase  
8 communication among all delivery systems, and facilitate  
9 student acceleration and the transfer of students and credits  
10 between the schools and postsecondary institutions.

11 The state board of regents is principally responsible  
12 for maintaining the system. The state board of regents, the  
13 director of the department in collaboration with the community  
14 colleges, and the Iowa association of independent colleges  
15 and universities are directed to appoint faculty committees  
16 representing faculties of public postsecondary educational  
17 institutions and accredited private institutions to an ongoing  
18 statewide course numbering system faculty task force charged  
19 with recommending a single level for each course, including  
20 postsecondary career education courses, included in the  
21 statewide course numbering system. The task force must meet at  
22 least annually to review the system.

23 The bill describes what characterizes an upper or lower  
24 level course and requires that the regents, the state board of  
25 education, the community colleges, and the accredited private  
26 institutions approve the levels for the courses. The system  
27 shall include the courses at the recommended levels.

28 The registration process at each public postsecondary  
29 educational institution and each accredited private institution  
30 shall include the courses at their designated levels and  
31 statewide course numbers.

32 Accredited private institutions shall participate in the  
33 system, bear the associated costs, and meet the terms and  
34 conditions for institutional participation in the system.  
35 The state board of regents and the state board of education,

1 in cooperation with the Iowa association of private colleges  
2 and universities and the board of directors of the community  
3 colleges, must adopt a fee schedule that includes the expenses  
4 incurred through data processing, faculty task force travel  
5 and per diem, and staff and clerical support time, and  
6 differentiates between the costs of initial course inclusion  
7 and the costs of system maintenance.

8 Decisions regarding initial course inclusion and  
9 subsequent course maintenance must be made within one year  
10 after submission of the required materials and fees by the  
11 institution.

12 The state board of regents may select a date by which new  
13 courses must be submitted and may delay review of courses  
14 submitted after that date.

15 Any student who transfers among institutions participating  
16 in the system must be awarded credit by the receiving  
17 institution for courses satisfactorily completed at the  
18 previous institutions. Credit must be awarded if the courses  
19 are judged by the task force to be academically equivalent,  
20 including equivalency of faculty credentials, regardless of  
21 the public or private control of the previous postsecondary  
22 educational institution. The award of credit may be limited to  
23 courses that are entered in the system. Credits awarded shall  
24 satisfy institutional requirements on the same basis as credits  
25 awarded under the participating postsecondary educational  
26 institution's current course catalog.

27 The state board of regents and the state board of education  
28 shall each adopt rules for purposes of administering the  
29 statutory provisions relating to the system. The regents'  
30 rules shall provide for the conduct of regularly scheduled  
31 course purges and must include waiver provisions that allow  
32 course continuation if a participating institution has  
33 reasonable cause for having not offered a course in five years  
34 and an expectation that the course will be offered again within  
35 the following five years.

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1 A statewide course numbering system fund is created in  
2 the state treasury under the control of the state board of  
3 regents. The fund consists of any moneys appropriated by the  
4 general assembly for the system and all fees deposited into  
5 the fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the state  
6 board of regents for purposes of coordinating and maintaining  
7 the system. Moneys remaining in the fund do not revert at the  
8 close of a fiscal year but are available for expenditure for  
9 the following fiscal year. Interest or earnings on moneys  
10 deposited in the fund are credited to the fund.